

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 14-15, 18-20 and 22-25 are pending in the present application.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claim 1 is amended to change the limitation “30 to 100% by weight” to “at least 30% by weight”. Support for this amendment resides at page 12 of the specification, as being an inherent embodiment of the original range of “30 to 100% by weight”. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Withdrawn Rejections

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the withdrawal by the Examiner of the previous rejections over the prior art.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one)

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 14-15, 18-20, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one) as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner takes the position that the specification as originally filed “does not provide support for a structure wherein the nonwoven fabric has 100% by weight thick thermoplastic fibers. The upper limit for the thick thermoplastic fibers found in the specification is 90% by weight.”

In response, the specification provides support for the noted limitation at page 12, lines 8-10 of the specification. The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 11-15, 18-20 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) for the reason that "It is not clear how the nonwoven fabric can comprise 100% by weight of the thermoplastic fibers and also comprise 1-50% by weight of the thin crimped thermoplastic fibers".

In response, claim 1 is amended to change the limitation "30 to 100%" by weight to "at least 30% by weight". The respective limitations accordingly do not overlap in the manner asserted by the Examiner. The rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

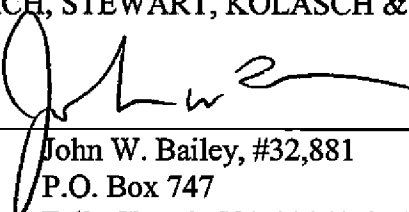
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: **JUL 10 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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